

INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

and

FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

for services ending
July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002

Revised Version

**State of Washington
Department of Social and Health Services
Children's Administration Practice Improvement Division
Office of Children's Administration Research
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Olympia, Washington 98504-5710**

This version of the report has several changes from the previous version issued.
Due to calculation errors, the average total hours and average face-to-face
contacts in the Executive Summary were wrong in the previous version.
This revised report reflects the accurate numbers.

Please discard any copies of the earlier version you may have.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Intensive Family Preservation and Family Preservation Services programs were designed to help preserve family units by providing crisis intervention, education, and assistance in connecting to community support systems and managing risk factors, all the while keeping children safe. The IFPS/FPS providers and DCFS staff strive to give families alternatives to having their children placed outside of the home as well as work to ensure safe reunification.

While we all would like there to be no child safety risk data to report, the data associated with these 2,272 families may be viewed as representative of the kinds of children and family issues Children's Administration and state-contracted staff face daily.

This document and the tremendous amount of work it describes is possible because of the determined efforts of:

- social workers and administrators throughout Washington's DCFS offices and Children's Administration Headquarters,
- contracted in-home service specialist organizations in Washington's six regions who provide the direct services and report much of the data used to compile this report, and
- several research staff.

Thanks should also go to the families who voluntarily participated with these services in an attempt to make their family circumstances and children's lives better.

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While field staff and services providers concentrated on keeping children safe during the report year, Children's Administration's Office of Children's Administration Research (CA, OCAR) worked to gather a complete set of service exit records. This effort included matching an independent data set with service data received and then requesting missing service documentation from providers and field staff throughout the state. While compiling a missing list and gathering the data took considerable time, OCAR was able to include over 500 IFPS/FPS service records involving approximately 900 children in this report. We believe this recovery effort was worth the delay in finalizing this annual report and thank you for your patience.

INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES (IFPS) FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES (FPS) 2002 ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

Executive Summary

A review of program outcome measures since 1998 has shown consistent results for children and families served by contracted IFPS/FPS service providers (IFPS/FPS Annual Evaluation Reports, 1998-2002). Program indicators of increased child safety and improved family functioning as coordinated by Division of Child and Family Services staff statewide include prevented placements, successful reunifications, caregiver risk reductions, and increases in connections to community resources and supports. Data collected for this evaluation continue to show the same trend for Washington's high risk families.

WASHINGTON'S FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES OUTCOMES Percentage of all families served for each outcome by program during report year		
IFPS		FPS
78%	Placements Prevented	*
60%	Successful Reunifications	49%
64%	Avoidance of New Referrals	69%
40% - 63%	Reduction in Family and Caregiver Risk Factors	42% - 62%
3% - 66%	Increased Community Connections**	3% - 62%
76% - 95%	Consumer Satisfaction	72% - 98%

* Not a measured outcome for this program

** Connection with Adult or Juvenile Justice System measurements excluded

Recommendations made in the past two annual evaluation reports remain valid and include:

- ❖ Assessing the appropriateness of services available and provided through IFPS/FPS for clients currently being referred
- ❖ Continuing the existing IFPS/FPS training for all DCFS staff and including contracted service providers in these trainings whenever possible
- ❖ Reconvening IFPS/FPS Task Force to
 - review and revise eligibility criteria for reunification families so that they meet federal eligibility requirements
 - re-evaluate services provided and contract only for those that impact targeted risk factors
 - calculate a minimum number of face-to-face hours required to increase desired outcomes
- ❖ Evaluating impact on outcomes when initial contact is not made within a specified timeframe
- ❖ Improving reporting process to better link specific services with identified risks and desired outcomes

- ❖ Examining appropriateness of current IFPS/FPS for reunification referrals
- ❖ Maintaining current requirement of mandatory training for all providers prior to beginning direct contact with clients
- ❖ Maintaining ongoing feedback to providers, Children's Administration management and contract coordinators regarding referral and reporting systems

Although the families referred to IFPS/FPS and the data collection methods, outcome indicators, and risk and service measurements have changed little since the last annual report, the format of this report has. It represents a condensed snapshot of program families, children and services that includes many side by side program comparisons of measured risk factors as well as a variety of graphics illustrating program services and outcomes.

WASHINGTON'S FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES AT A GLANCE services ending 7/1/01 through 6/30/02		
IFPS		FPS
851	Number of Children Served*	2,767
8.23	Average Age of Children Served	8.51
482	Number of Families Served*	1,790
1.77	Average Number of Children Served per Family	1.55
13	Number of Service Providers	64
691	Number of Referrals for Placement Prevention Services	2,176
160	Number of Referrals for Reunification Services	586
77 days	Average Length of Service	130 days
87.73	Average Total Hours per Service**	60.42
40.71	Average Total Face-to-Face Hours per Service	29.45
19.11	Average Number of Face-to-Face Contacts per Service**	14.82
26 (3%)	Number of Families Refusing Services	62 (2%)

* Some children/families received more than one service during this evaluation period

** Averages include both therapist and paraprofessional hours

The report has been organized into seven sections:

- Program Inception/Legislative Intent
- The Children
- The Families
- The Services
- The Results
- The Contracted Service Providers
- Summary and Recommendations

Within these sections you will find much of the data collected for the 2,272 families identified as needing and benefiting from these specialized in-home services during the evaluation year.

PROGRAM INCEPTION / LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Believing that the health and safety of Washington's children is vital and recognizing the increasing number of children entering out-of-home care, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5885 authorizing family preservation services in 1995. The intent of the legislation includes strengthening family units and decreasing the number of children entering the dependency system by providing intensive in-home services focused on keeping children safe within their own homes. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) was directed to administer two programs, Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) and Family Preservation Services (FPS), by determining family eligibility, appropriately contracting and training intensive in-home service providers, monitoring program activities, and, finally, evaluating all services for prescribed outcomes.

This is the sixth evaluation report prepared by the Office of Children's Administration Research (OCAR) using data submitted by DSHS contracted service organizations and the Children's Administration management information system. It summarizes IFPS and FPS provided to children and families ending July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Intensive Family Preservation Services	Family Preservation Services
Provided to families whose children, without intervention, are at "imminent risk" of entry into the dependency system due to child abuse, neglect, family conflict, or threats of harm to health, safety, or welfare	Provided to families whose children, without intervention, face "substantial likelihood" of out-of-home placement because of child abuse, neglect, family conflict, or threats of harm to health, safety, or welfare
Also provided to help reunify children with their families	Also provided to help reunify children with their families
Focused on providing intensive therapeutic services and building connections with supportive community programs so families in crisis may be able to remain together safely	Focused on increasing the number of supportive community connections, reducing risk factors, and enhancing existing family strengths to keep families together
Services are available within 24 hours of referral and offered for up to 90 days	Services are available within 48 hours of referral and offered for up to six months

Family participation is voluntary for both programs

THE CHILDREN

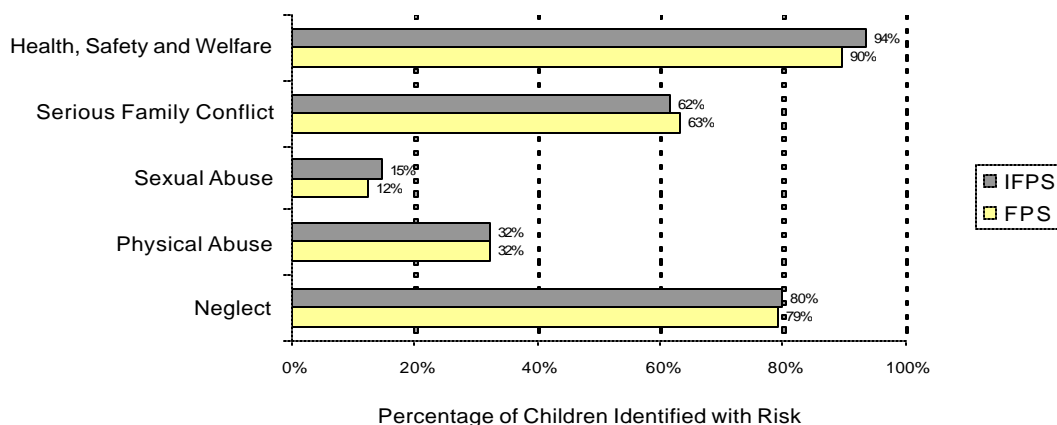
GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

What are the characteristics of the 3,618 children who received IFPS and FPS during the evaluation year? Nearly one third of all children served were under the age of five and approximately 75% of the children served during this report year were under the age of 13. Data collected indicated over 60% were Caucasian; 12% were multiracial; and African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans each comprised between 5% and 10%. Males slightly outnumbered females for both programs (IFPS 54%, FPS 52%). The children served during the evaluation year were referred by one of three Division of Child and Family Services programs: Child Protective Services (70% IFPS, 57% FPS), Child Welfare Services (22% IFPS, 29% FPS) or Family Reconciliation Services (9% IFPS, 14% FPS).

RISK FACTORS

Social workers assessed all children referred to IFPS or FPS for risk factors in one or more of five areas. *Children could be, and often were, identified with more than one risk factor.*

IDENTIFIED RISK FACTORS OF CHILDREN SERVED BY IFPS/FPS



Health, Safety and Welfare Risk Factors

Social workers identified up to ten health, safety and welfare risk areas for all children receiving services. Nearly all children referred to IFPS and FPS were at risk due to one or more of these specific risks.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE RISK FACTORS

Most Reported - IFPS	Most Reported - FPS
Inability to protect child (60%)	Behavioral problems (57%)
Behavioral problems (51%)	Inability to protect child (51%)
Inability to control child (45%)	Inability to control child (46%)
School problems (36%)	School problems (40%)
Serious mental health issues (22%)	Family not engaged with services (21%)
Family not engaged with services (21%)	Serious mental health issues (19%)
All others (< 11%)	All others (<15%)

The remaining four health, safety and welfare risk factors: delinquency, drug/or alcohol use, developmental disability or retardation, and physical handicap or chronic debilitating medical problem, were identified for less than 15% of children served by either IFPS or FPS.

Serious Family Conflict

Families could also be referred to IFPS or FPS because their children were exposed to or involved in serious family conflict. Social workers identified this risk factor for nearly two thirds of the children referred for IFPS and FPS.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH REPORTED RISK FACTOR OF SERIOUS FAMILY CONFLICT

Nature of Conflict	IFPS	FPS
Violent (e.g., physical assault)	23%	18%
Non-violent (e.g., verbal dispute)	25%	24%
Both Violent and Non-violent	13%	21%

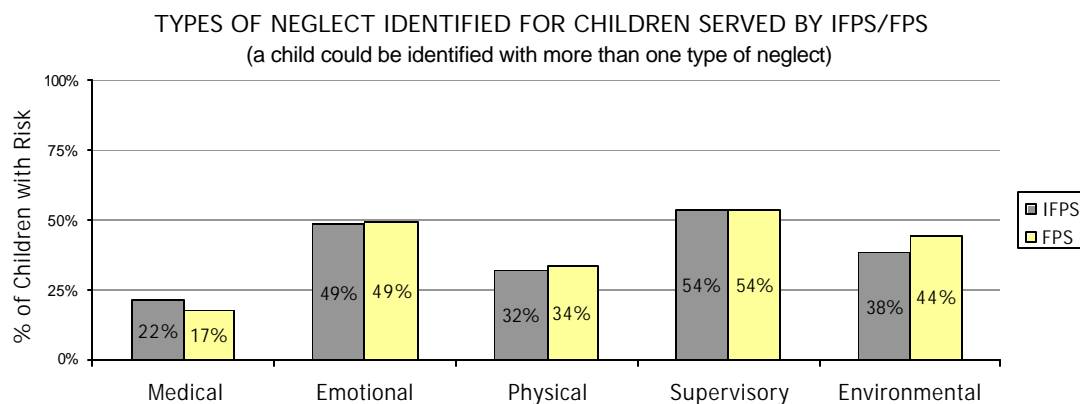
Physical and Sexual Abuse

Social workers referred some children for IFPS/FPS because of reported physical and sexual abuse. Of the 32% identified as at risk for *physical abuse*, 28% of children served by IFPS were reported as being *victims* compared with 26% of FPS-served children. Less than 6% (FPS) and 5% (IFPS) of children referred due to *physical abuse* were identified as offenders or both victims and offenders.

Twelve percent of children served by IFPS and 11% of children served by FPS were identified as *victims of sexual abuse*. Less than three percent of children referred to either program due to risk of *sexual abuse* were identified as offenders or victims and offenders.

Neglect

Over 75% of all children referred to IFPS or FPS were at risk due to neglect. During the report year, IFPS/FPS providers worked with 2,865 children identified as being at risk for at least one of five types of neglect. Nearly 56% of children served by IFPS/FPS were reported as being at risk for two or more types of neglect.



PLACEMENT PREVENTION / REUNIFICATION SERVICES

Intensive family preservation and family preservation service providers worked to help 2,867 children (approximately 80%) remain with their families through placement prevention services. Services were provided to roughly 20% of families (160 or 19% IFPS, 586 or 21% FPS) to assist with reunification.

PROVIDER RECOMMENDATIONS

Service providers recommended 74% of children served through IFPS and 71% of children served through FPS remain in their homes at the end of service. The most common out-of-home placement recommendation, when given, included DCFS authorized foster care (9% IFPS and FPS) or relative care (6% IFPS, 8% FPS).

THE FAMILIES

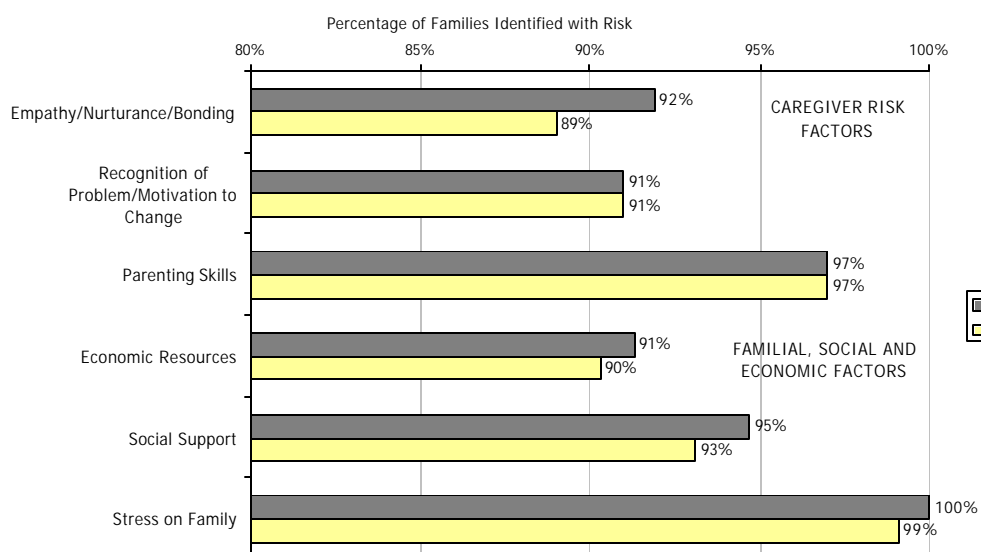
GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

What are the characteristics of the 2,272 families served by IFPS and FPS? The majority of individuals identified as primary caregivers was Caucasian (69% IFPS, 72% FPS) and female caregivers heavily outnumbered males (more than 80% for both programs). A second caregiver was reported for more than 44% of IFPS-served families and 39% of FPS-served families. Over 65% of families served by IFPS/FPS reported an annual family income of less than \$20,001 and 70% of primary caregivers were under age 40.

RISK FACTORS

Social workers assessed seven caregiver risk factors and four familial, social and economic factors at time of referral to IFPS/FPS. Six of the eleven risk factors were shared by over 88% of families served.

RISK FACTORS IDENTIFIED FOR MOST IFPS/FPS FAMILIES



The number of families identified with the remaining five reported risk factors ranged from 49 to 88%. These risks, in order of prevalence, included a caregiver's mental emotional, intellectual or physical impairment (IFPS 86%, FPS 88%), history of child abuse and neglect (IFPS 82%, FPS 80%), domestic violence within the family (IFPS 74%, FPS 72%), substance abuse within the family (IFPS 62%, FPS 68%), or a caregiver's history of violence or sexual assault (IFPS 56%, FPS 49%).

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

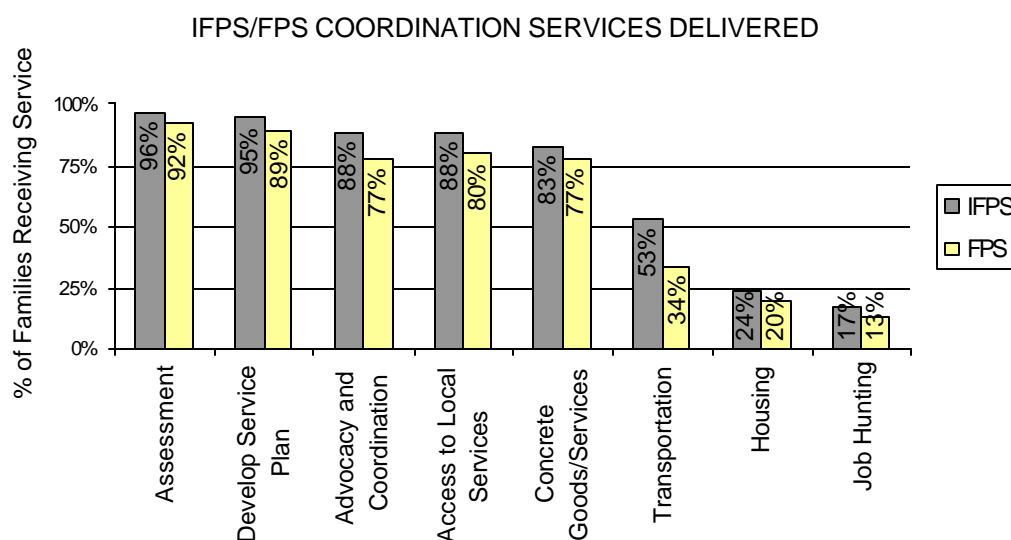
Families served by IFPS/FPS participated in a wide range of formal and informal support systems within their communities and also relied on a variety of concrete goods and services. Data was collected for families involved with up to 27 identified community resources. Service providers reported family engagement at start and end of service. The four most frequently reported community systems and services families engaged with in each of the three categories are provided below.

FAMILY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT TIME OF IFPS/FPS SERVICE (% of all families served)

Formal Support Services			Informal Support Services			Concrete Goods and Services		
Resource	IFPS	FPS	Resource	IFPS	FPS	Resource	IFPS	FPS
Medical Services	89%	85%	Support person for parent	86%	83%	Health Insurance	85%	80%
School Staff	69%	71%	Support person for child	82%	82%	Public Assistance	59%	54%
Community	68%	68%	Community activities/clubs	28%	33%	WIC/Food stamps	51%	50%
Mental Health	63%	62%	Sports, dance and music	15%	20%	Transportation	37%	36%

IDENTIFIED SERVICE AREAS**Coordination Services**

Providers were asked to assess families' needs and provide services in eight service coordination areas. While service coordination assistance was offered in all eight areas, over 75% of all families served by either program received service coordination assistance in five of the eight areas.

**Skill Building**

Service providers also assessed families for specific skill building needs. Eighty to ninety-two percent of all families served needed assistance with child behavior management, safety skills, communication, parent education and emotion management. All twelve skill-building areas assessed by providers and the percentage of families who received services, who needed but did not want services, or did not need these services can be found below.

IFPS/FPS SKILL BUILDING SERVICES (% of all families served)

AREA	IFPS*			FPS*		
	Service Delivered	Needed but not wanted	Service not needed	Service Delivered	Needed but not wanted	Service not needed
Emotion Management	92%	5%	2%	87%	10%	3%
Parent Education	85%	7%	7%	84%	10%	5%
Communication	84%	9%	6%	81%	11%	8%
Safety Skill Building	81%	4%	15%	66%	10%	24%
Child Behavior Management	80%	7%	11%	81%	10%	9%
Child Development Education	79%	8%	12%	77%	10%	12%
Defusing Family Violence	56%	8%	35%	47%	9%	44%
Home Maintenance Skills	30%	10%	60%	19%	11%	69%
Financial Budgeting	27%	22%	49%	28%	23%	49%
Substance Abuse Management	27%	14%	59%	24%	16%	60%
Marital Conflict Resolution	22%	10%	67%	22%	10%	68%
Job Readiness Training	19%	14%	65%	11%	17%	71%

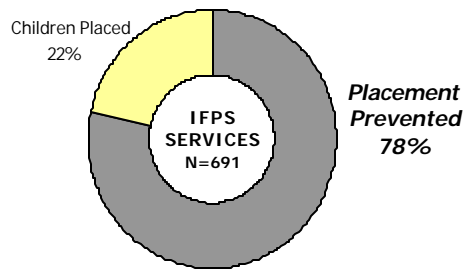
* Some areas may not total 100% due to rounding

Less than 3% of all families receiving services reported wanting a coordination or skill-building service not available through IFPS/FPS.

THE RESULTS

PLACEMENT PREVENTION SERVICES

PLACEMENT PREVENTION SERVICES REQUESTED

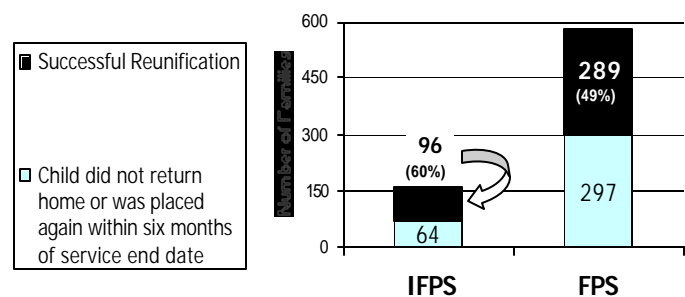


The primary outcome measure for intensive family preservation services (IFPS) as prescribed in statute involves preventing "out-of-home placement for at least 70% of cases served for a period of at least six months following termination of services" (RCW 74.14C.030 (5)(a)). Service providers exceeded this prescribed standard by 8%, preventing placement for a total of 541 children.

REUNIFICATION SERVICES

Social workers referred families for IFPS/FPS to help ensure children's safe return home. Reunification success was gauged using two criteria: children returned home within 30 days of IFPS/FPS start, and no subsequent placement occurred within six months of service end. Over half (385) of the children referred for IFPS and FPS reunification services were able to reunite safely with their parents, guardians or relatives. This includes 60% of IFPS reunification cases and 49% of FPS reunification cases.

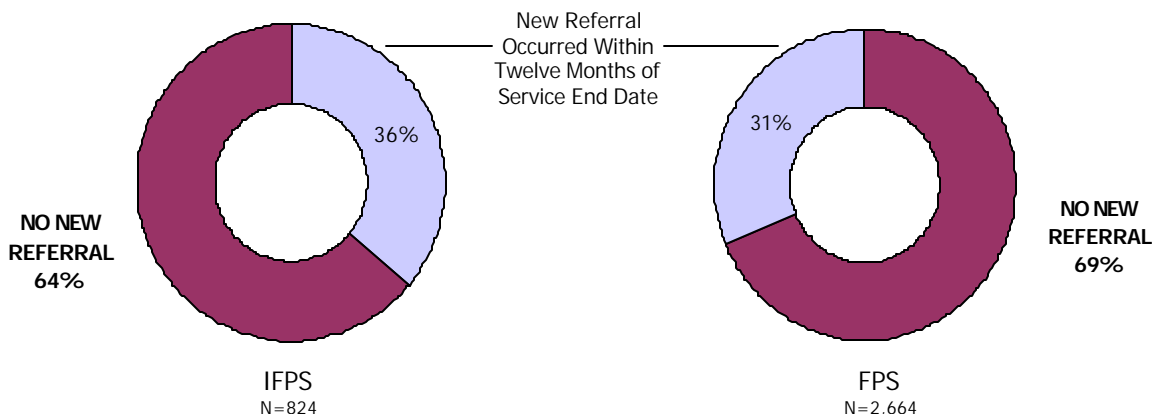
IFPS/FPS REUNIFICATION SERVICES



REREFERRAL AFTER SERVICE

Another measure of program efficacy consists of avoiding "new referrals...for Child Protective Services (CPS) or Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) ...within one year of the most recent case closure..." (RCW 74.14C.030 (4)(b)). The following referral rates are based on Children's Administration records of accepted referrals to CPS and FRS between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003, or one year post-service.

No new referrals were received within twelve months of service end for 525 children served by IFPS (64%) and 1,829 children served by FPS (69%) for families who participated in program services.

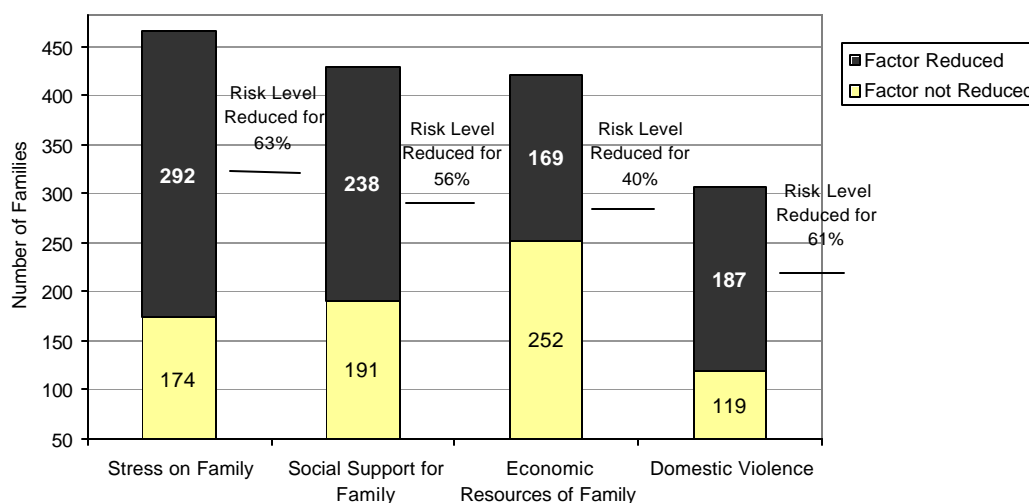


REDUCTION IN RISK FACTORS

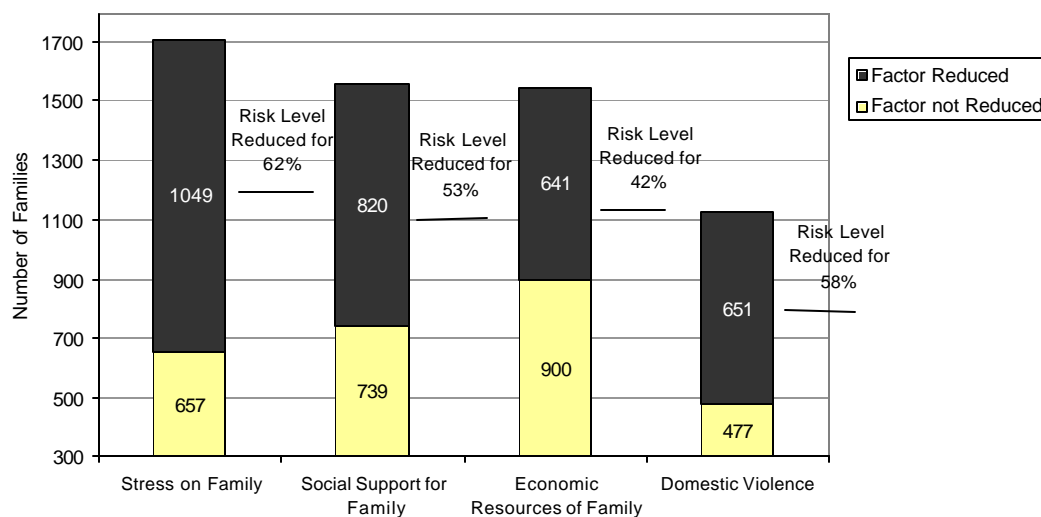
The Office of Children's Administration Research has analyzed data from past IFPS/FPS to determine possible links between caregiver, familial, social and economic factors and re-referrals to Child Protective Services (2001 and 2002 IFPS/FPS Evaluation Progress Reports). The current service summary collects data on nine caregiver risk factors and four familial, social and economic factors. Two of the nine caregiver risk factors, "Protection of Child by Non-Abusive Caregiver" and "Level of Cooperation," were added to the instrument midway during this report year and are not included in this report.

At intake, social workers assigned a risk level of "0" (no risk) to "5" (high risk) for all 13 factors. Service providers evaluated these factors again at service exit using the same five-point scale. For this report year, risk levels were reduced for all families with an intake risk level of at least "1". As only families with risk levels of "1" through "5" were included in these calculations, the number of families reported for each risk category varies. The "Risk Level Reduced for" percentage refers to the number of families with a measurable reduction in each risk factor for each program.

FAMILIAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RISK FACTORS
OF IFPS FAMILIES (n=482)

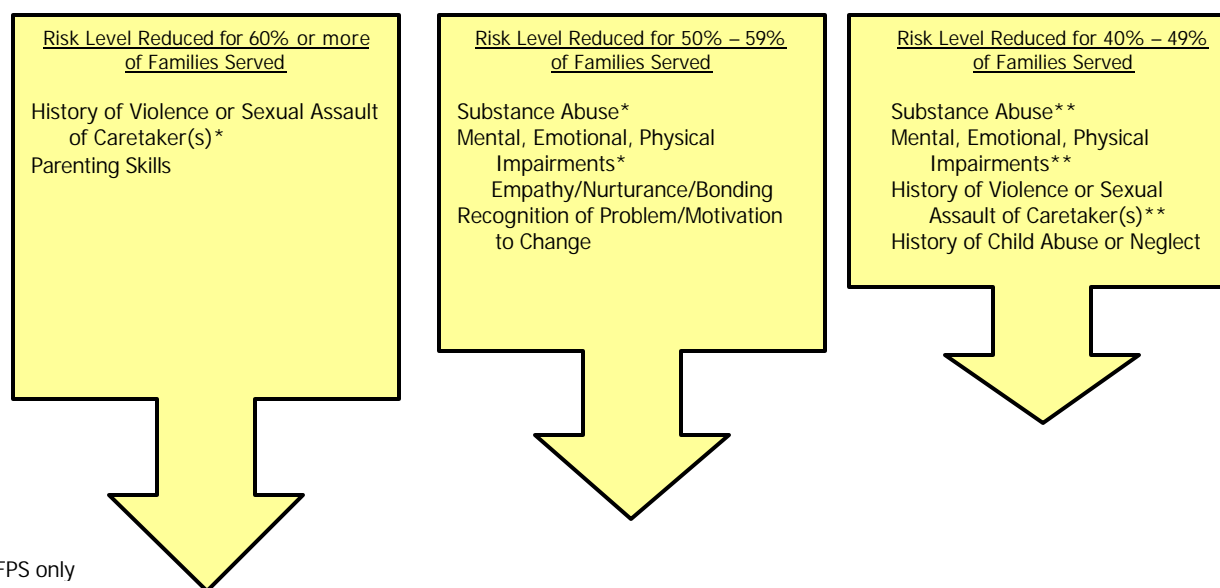


FAMILIAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RISK FACTORS
OF FPS FAMILIES (N=1,790)



THE RESULTS

PERCENTAGE OF IFPS-FPS SERVED FAMILIES WITH REDUCED CAREGIVER RISK FACTOR



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Data was also collected for family connections with existing community resources. Service providers submitted data regarding 13 formal support services, five informal support services and nine concrete goods and services that families were connected with at start or became connected with by end of IFPS/FPS. Reported data indicate an increased number of families connected to all 27 community resources by IFPS/FPS end.

Increases in the number of families connected to community resources are illustrated in the three figures that follow as ratios. The Office of Children's Administration Research calculated a net change in family engagement using the difference in the number of families engaged at service entry and exit for each community resource area. Five to thirty-eight percent of all families served by IFPS/FPS increased connections with available concrete goods and services.

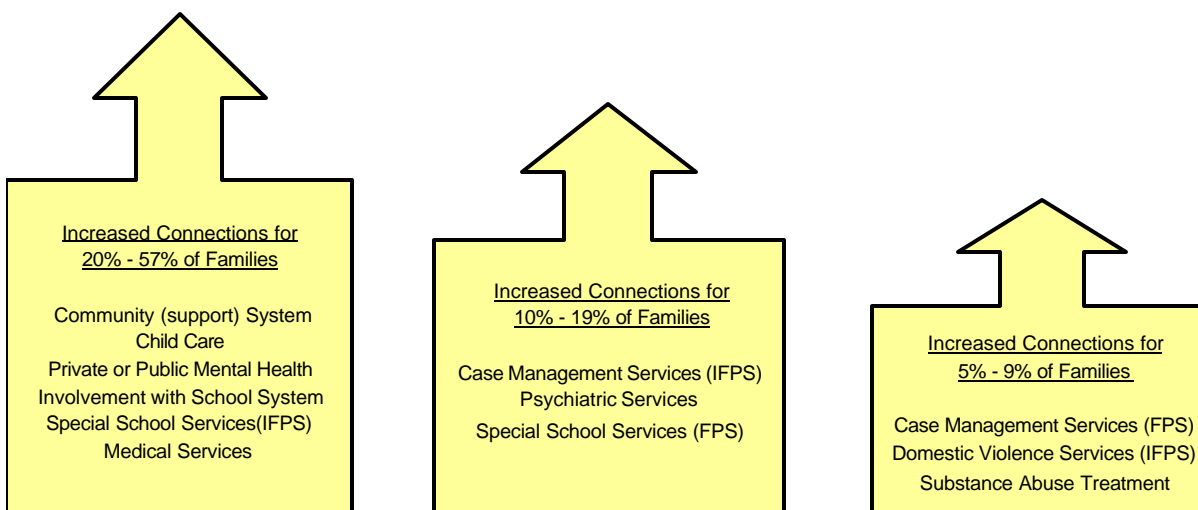
CONCRETE GOODS AND SERVICES NET INCREASE IN FAMILY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CONNECTIONS

	IFPS				FPS			
	# of Families Connected at Service Start	# of Families Connected at Service End	# of Families not Connected at Service Start	IFPS Net Change	# of Families Connected at Service Start	# of Families Connected at Service End	# of Families not Connected at Service Start	FPS Net Change
Private or Public Health Insurance	358	405	124	38%	1224	1367	548	26%
Transportation	92	171	390	20%	314	604	1463	20%
Legal Assistance/Resources	104	176	378	19%	308	506	1463	14%
WIC/Food Stamps	187	238	293	17%	670	813	1094	13%
Utility/Telephone Assistance	44	117	438	17%	161	408	1612	15%
Housing Assistance	109	169	373	16%	319	507	1454	13%
Public Assistance	232	267	250	14%	761	885	1013	12%
Vocational/Educational Services/DVR	37	82	445	10%	114	275	1659	10%
Employment Security/Unemployment	42	65	440	5%	181	291	1590	7%

Net change calculated by subtracting the number of families connected at service start from the number of families connected at service end and dividing this result by the number of families not connected at service start. These ratios reflect only the difference in the number of families engaged with each community resource—family need or provider recommendation for community resource engagement are not currently measured and therefore are not represented in these calculated ratios.

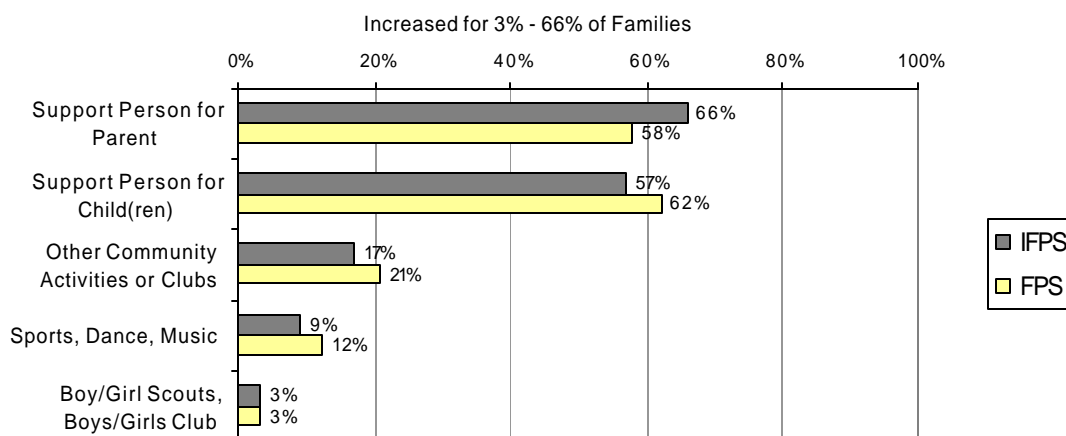
Service providers reported increased family connections with many formal support services as well. Data shows numerous families connected with medical services (57% IFPS, 45% FPS) and the school system (42% IFPS, 40% FPS). More than one third connected with community systems such as support groups, churches, food banks, and mental health services.

FORMAL SUPPORT SERVICES



Service providers also reported family connections with informal supports found in the community. Over half of families served by either program received assistance finding a support person for both parent(s) and child(ren).

INFORMAL SUPPORT SERVICES



THE RESULTS

CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

A final program outcome measure relies on voluntary responses from families served. At the end of IFPS/FPS services, providers asked families to return a survey containing nine items rating the services they received, one item asking whether they would refer services to a friend and an invitation for comments. The Office of Children's Administration received 319 surveys (14% of all families receiving either service) from families during this report year. Generally, those families served who returned a survey were satisfied with IFPS/FPS and believed their family situation had improved, however, interpret this data cautiously as the small response rate cannot be viewed as representative of all families receiving services.

SURVEY QUESTION AND RESPONSE RATING SCALE	Percentage of Surveys with Rating of 4 or 5			RANDOM COMMENTS
	IFPS n=102	FPS n=170	Program not Identified n=47	
How satisfied were you with the quality of service you received? (1 very dissatisfied to 3 neither to 5 very satisfied)	93%	98%	96%	This (IFPS) is a great and helpful program and I recommend it to anyone.
How satisfied were you with the way therapist listened to you and understood what you had to say? (1 very dissatisfied to 3 neither to 5 very satisfied)	94%	98%	96%	Even though we didn't get what we felt we needed, we do recognize that it may meet the needs of many other families in our area.
How is your family doing now, compared to before services were provided? (1 much worse to 3 no change to 5 much improved)	88%	92%	87%	Our therapist did not have much time with us. She was able to build a trust and get us started out but money has prevented us from going any father (sic).
How satisfied were you with the amount the therapist involved you and your family in making a service plan and setting goals with your family? (1 very dissatisfied to 3 neither to 5 very satisfied)	91%	95%	100%	The only reson (sic) that some of our goals didn't get met was cuz (sic) not sure what they were. Our goals were made by CPS.
To what extent were your identified goals met? (1 almost all of my goals were unmet to 3 some were met/some were unmet to 5 almost all of my goals have been met)	76%	72%	68%	FPS was very beneficial to our family and we appreciate the help.
Was your therapist available and responsive to you? (1 very unresponsive to 3 neither to 5 very responsive)	95%	96%	100%	The only problem was as soon as things were changing the program was over .
How satisfied were you with being able to get in touch with the therapist when a crisis or emergency happened? (1 very dissatisfied to 3 neither to 5 very satisfied)	88%	87%	92%	I am constantly telling my friends about Homebuilders (IFPS).
Did you feel the therapist was respectful of your cultural beliefs and values? (1 never to 3 some of the time to 5 yes definitely)	94%	96%	94%	Family preservation helped me in way's (sic) that I never would have dreamed - when I needed someone to talk to they were there - when I needed direction or questions answered - they had them - and the parenting classes were awesome.
Did the therapist focus on the strengths and successes of your family? (1 never to 3 some of the time to 5 yes definitely)	92%	94%	92%	

Families were also asked if they would refer IFPS/FPS to a friend. Of the 319 families who returned surveys, 88% served by IFPS and 92% served by FPS responded positively. Of the 2% of families who returned surveys where a program type could not be assigned, 94% indicated they would refer the services to a friend.

THE CONTRACTED SERVICE PROVIDERS

IFPS/FPS BY STATE CONTRACTED PROVIDER

Thirteen organizations provided both IFPS/FPS to families during the report year.

Provider name	Number of IFPS interventions	Number of FPS interventions
BSM Counseling & Training Center	10.....	18
Cairbre Counseling.....	2	27
Catholic Community Services	62.....	47
Chelan/Douglas RSN.....	3	11
Community Mental Health.....	3	18
Grayson & Associates	53.....	100
Institute for Family Development	296.....	266
Northwest Youth Services.....	1	19
Pacific Institute of Family Dynamics.....	10.....	24
Phillips Agency, Inc.....	1	1
Seattle Mental Health	12.....	0
Service Alternatives	1	61
Working Choices, Inc.	28.....	98
Totals	482.....	690

The following 51 contracted organizations provided only FPS during the evaluation period.

Provider Name	Number of FPS interventions	Provider Name	Number of FPS interventions
Advantages Plus Counseling, Inc.....	22	Inland Counseling Network.....	4
Auburn Youth Resources	13	Keller, Robert.....	34
Becker & Associates.....	22	Larsen, Tony	7
Brecht & Woods Therapeutic Services	26	Lutheran Social Services.....	77
BOLD Solutions.....	1	MacCready, Kay Nan	2
Catholic Family & Child Services	97	Meyer, Keith.....	21
Child Guidance Clinic	15	Morris, Michael.....	18
Children's NETT	37	Northwest Children's Home.....	6
C.I.E.L.O.	14	Northwest Family Therapy Institute.....	9
Community Youth Services	4	Palouse Counseling.....	19
Counseling Services and Assessment.....	13	Personal Parenting & Assessment Service.....	26
County Family Service Team	28	PK Therapy & Family Services	5
Crowley, Larry	3	Psychological Consultants.....	12
Dykeman, Ruth Children's Center	4	Ryther Child Center	1
EDS Family Services	17	Salvation Army.....	1
Elg, Sue	23	Spokane Consultants in Family Living.....	36
Empowering, Inc.....	12	Strickland & Seferian.....	52
Evergreen Counseling Services	127	Support, Care & Networking for Families (SCAN) ..	35
Excelsior Youth Center.....	4	Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation	5
Family Essentials	57	Walker & White Diversified.....	33
Family, Marriage & Assessment Counseling.....	35	West End Outreach.....	2
Family Renewal Resources	40	YMCA of Greater Seattle.....	18
Gateways for Youth & Families	6	Youth, Family, Adult Connections.....	11
Guerin & Associates.....	17	Youthnet.....	2
Harmony Plus	13		
Healthy Families.....	2		
Imagine Joy.....	12		
		Total	1,100

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The families and children served by the IFPS and FPS programs in fiscal year 2002 (services ending July 2001 through June 2002) are similar in demographics, identified problems/risks, services delivered and community connections made as in several of the previous report years, although the specific number of families referred for IFPS was down almost 15%. The placement and re-referral outcomes for these families and children appear to be slightly better, but this could be a function of a switch to electronic matching of clients to re-referral and placement outcomes versus looking the information up manually (no test for significance has been performed). Data again shows reductions in caregiver, familial, social and socioeconomic risk factors and increases in connections with supportive community resources and support systems.

Because the basic characteristics of this population continue to be the same, we did not perform any additional bivariate or multivariate analysis as we have for the evaluation reports prepared for the past two years. We feel the previous recommendations continue to be valid and therefore, they are repeated here.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Children's Administration should assess the appropriateness of services provided through IFPS and FPS, especially those services provided in reunification efforts.
- ❖ Continue training all DCFS staff (social workers, supervisors, contract monitors) who are involved in the identification, authorization and referral of clients for IFPS and FPS. Training should be based on recent research regarding which services are most appropriate for families served by IFPS and FPS and should include contracted providers as well as Children's Administration staff, when appropriate and feasible.
- ❖ Reconvene the IFPS/FPS Outcome Measures Task Force to:
 1. re-evaluate services provided to families referred to IFPS or FPS and include only those services that address or impact targeted risk factors;
 2. review and revise eligibility criteria for families referred to IFPS or FPS for reunification such that it meets federal guidelines for IV-B, Part 2 funds (child's length of stay in placement <15 months);
 3. evaluate the therapeutic intervention model to assure it addresses/impacts all identified risks; and
 4. calculate a minimum number of face-to-face hours required with families to increase desired outcomes.
- ❖ Evaluate the impact on outcomes when therapist/client initial face-to-face contact is not made within the specified timeframe (24 hours for IFPS, 48 hours for FPS).
- ❖ Improve the method of reporting associations between identified problem(s), risks and services. Modify the provider reporting procedures so it will link services to specific risk factors, including the desired outcomes those services are expected to produce, and identify services to maintain risk reductions post intervention.
- ❖ Examine the appropriateness of IFPS and FPS (as currently delivered) for reunification services to determine if there are improvements in transition planning that could reduce the number of children who re-enter placement.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Examine available IFPS data for families identified with neglect and violent family conflict risks to assess service effectiveness. If ineffective, identify effective services.
- ❖ Continue the current requirement of mandatory training for all IFPS and FPS providers before they begin providing direct services to clients. Combine contracted provider and Children's Administration staff training, when appropriate and feasible.
- ❖ Maintain ongoing feedback to providers, CA management and contract coordinators regarding receipt of exit summaries and gatekeeper logs.

